

EXHIBIT 25
DATE 1-15-09
ID 2

January 15, 2009

Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services
Re: Public Testimony, Health Resources Division
REP: Teresa Henry, Chair

Madam Chair, and members of the committee, my name is Shyla Janssen. I am a consumer of children's mental health resources.

I live at Florence Crittenton with my three children, ages 3, 2 and 1. This is my second time at Florence Crittenton. This home has given me a chance to reunite with my children and create a strong bond with them. Without this opportunity, I would have lost custody of my children and I would still be going down the wrong path. Placements like this are helpful for young mothers and teens to guide them in the right way when they are lost.

What I think would be helpful for our program is more funding for staff so the girls can have more help with babies and later bedtimes. We are all mothers, some older than the rest, and I think we should be treated like adults, somewhat.

Now, as I stated, this is my second time at Florence Crittenton. The first time was helpful, but needed improvement. This time around staff has improved, and the structure too. I think as the years go on we can help other placements like this one. I also think we will need to continue legislative support for services like this.

I just want to say thank you for giving me this opportunity and helping make children stronger, and I hope you continue to do so.

Thank you,

Shyla Janssen and children